

Message Text

SECRET

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14

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-15 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-19 OMB-01 AID-20

DRC-01 /177 W

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R 110513Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6178

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC

S E C R E T VIENTIANE 6994

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, LA

SUBJECT: FUTURE ROLE OF ICC IN LAOS

REFS: A. VIENTIANE 6641 (NOTAL)

B. VIENTIANE 6910 (NOTAL)

C. VIENTIANE 6920 (NOTAL)

BEGIN SUMMARY: SENIOR UK FOREIGN AFFAIRS OFFICIAL
VISITED EMBASSY TO PASS ON HIS ASSESSMENT OF CURRENT
STATE OF ICC DIPLOMACY AND TO INQUIRE ABOUT USG
VIEWPOINT. HE DELINEATED PROCEDURES FOR REACTIVATION
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OF ICC, EMPHASIZING MINIMAL ROLE FOR CO-CHAIRMEN,

WHICH HE BELIEVES ARE ACCEPTABLE TO ALL PARTIES, INCLUDING CANADIANS. HE POINTED OUT, HOWEVER, THAT SOME SUBTERFUGE MUST BE FOUND TO FACILITATE PRC FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS AND OFFSET PEKING'S PROBABLE TENDENCY TO TAKE PROPAGANDISTIC STAND AGAINST INITIATIVES IN WHICH SOVIETS, AS CO-CHAIRMAN, ARE INVOLVED. END SUMMARY.

1. THE DIRECTOR OF THE FOREIGN OFFICE'S SOUTHEAST ASIAN AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT, MR. V.W. SQUIRES, CALLED AT THE EMBASSY OCTOBER 9 TO DISCUSS ICC/LAOS AFFAIRS. HE HAD JUST ATTENDED BRITISH SOUTHEAST ASIA CHIEFS OF MISSION MEETING IN CHIANG MAI, AND PROCEEDED AFTERWARDS TO LAOS SPECIFICALLY TO TAKE SOUNDINGS ON ICC SITUATION HERE. HE HAD ALREADY CONSULTED WITH SOVIET CHARGE AND CHIEFS OF ICC DELEGATIONS.

2. SQUIRES ASKED FOR OUR VIEWS ON SCOPE AND NATURE OF REACTIVATED ICC ROLE IN LAOS. WE REPLIED ALONG LINES OF REF A. SQUIRES AGREED THAT THE BEST THAT ONE COULD EXPECT UNDER THE NEW LAO PROTOCOL WAS A LARGELY POLITICAL AND SYMBOLIC ICC ROLE. SINCE THIS WAS THE CASE, HOWEVER, QUESTION OF AMOUNTS THE MAJOR SIGNATORY POWERS WOULD BE WILLING TO CONTRIBUTE FOR SUCH A ROLE BECAME A RATHER THORNY ONE, AS WAS THAT OF MODALITIES FOR SIGNATORY PARTICIPATION. HMG WAS MOST CONCERNED AT THIS POINT WITH CONCRETE PROCEDURES BY WHICH ICC WOULD BE REACTIVATED AND APPROPRIATE DIPLOMATIC TACTICS TO STIMULATE MOST EFFECTIVE PARTICIPATION, FINANCIAL AND ADVISORY, BY ALL SIGNATORY POWERS, ESPECIALLY PRC.

3. SQUIRES THEN SAID HE HAD RECEIVED IMPRESSION DURING HIS CONSULTATIONS HERE THAT CANADIANS AND INDIANS HAD REACHED AGREEMENT WHICH POTENTIALLY SATISFIED PRECONDITIONS OTTAWA HAD POSED TO EXPANDED CANADIAN PRESENCE ON ICC/LAOS. SQUIRES THUS FELT CANADIANS WERE NOW MOVING IN DIRECTION OF INDIAN AND LAO POSITION. THIS AGREEMENT CONSISTED OF FOLLOWING PROCEDURES FOR REACTIVATION:

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KA) JOINT COMMISSION TO IMPLEMENT AGREEMENT (JCIA) WOULD PRESENT FORMAL REQUEST TO ICC CHAIRMAN DHAMIJA TO REACTIVATE COMMISSION. THIS REQUEST WOULD INCLUDE AGREED TRANSLATION OF THOSE PORTIONS OF PROTOCOL AND AGREEMENT WHICH CONCERNED ICC FUNCTIONS. REQUEST WOULD ALSO STATE THAT ANY DETAILED QUESTIONS ICC POWERS HAD ABOUT BODY'S MODUS OPERANDI WOULD BE ANSWERED BY JCIA WITHIN FIXED TIME PERIOD, PERHAPS ONE WEEK. REQUEST

WOULD CALL UPON DHAMIJA TO REQUEST BRITISH AND SOVIET CO-CHAIRMEN TO INFORM ALL SIGNATORY POWERS OF ICC'S REACTIVATION AND APPEAL FOR THEIR URGENT ASSISTANCE.

(B) DHAMIJA WOSCD CALL FORMAL MEETING OF ICC POWERS TO CONSIDER JCIA LETTER. UPON THEIR APPROVAL, DHAMIJA WOULD MAKE FORMAL REPORT TO CO-CHAIRMEN, ENCLOSING COPY OF JCIA LETTER AND ENDORSING REQUEST THAT SIGNATORIES BE INFORMED ON BEHALF OF ICC POWERS.

(C) HMG WOULD THEN CONSULT WITH USSR ABOUT NEXT STEP. PROBLEM HERE WOULD FOCUS ON QUESTION OF WHAT SQUIRES CALLED "AUTOMATICITY." SOME LEGALISTIC FORMULA WOULD HAVE TO BE FOUND TO STIMULATE NEW CONTRIBUTIONS BY SIGNATORY POWERS, PARTICULARLY PRC. THIS FORMULA HAD TO BE SUCH THAT PRC IN PARTICULAR WOULD NOT CONSIDER IT "AUTOMATICALLY" PREJUDICIAL TO PEKING'S POSITION ON ASSESSED CONTRIBUTIONS FOR 1965-1973 PERIOD, WHICH PRC REFUSES TO PAY. CO-CHAIRMEN WOULD ALSO HAVE TO DETERMINE WHETHER THEY SHOULD RECOMMEND THAT SYSTEM OF CONTRIBUTIONS SHOULD CONTINUE TO FOLLOW ARTICLE 18 OF 1962 PROTOCOL.

4. SQUIRES SAID THAT HE FELT BEST COURSE WAS TO HAVE ALL THESE QUESTIONS SPELLED OUT IN DHAMIJA'S LETTER FROM ICC POWERS, RATHER THAN IN CO-CHAIRMEN'S COVERING NOTE, INsofar AS THIS WAS POSSIBLE. HE THOUGHT THAT THE BEST WAY TO BRING PRC ALONG ON NEW CONTRIBUTIONS FOR ICC/LAOS WAS TO PLAY DOWN ROLE AND ACTIVITIES OF CO-CHAIRMEN, SINCE CHINESE WOULD PROBABLY TAKE PROPAGANDISTIC STAND AGAINST ANY INITIATIVE IN WHICH SOVIETS WERE HEAVILY INVOLVED.

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TM SQUIRES ASKED WHETHER USG THOUGHT IT APPROPRIATE FOR BRITISH EMBASSY IN PEKING TO EXPLORE ICC QUESTION IN NEAR FUTURE WITH PRC, USING TERMS OF POMPIDOU COMMUNIQUE (IN WHICH PRC EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR VARIOUS RECENT AGREEMENTS ON INDOCHINA) AS A WEDGE. HE ALSO ASKED WHETHER SUBJECT COULD BE RAISED BY SECRETARY OF STATE DURING FORTHCOMING VISIT TO PEKING. WE REPLIED BY PASSING ON INFORMATION REPORTED FROM INDIAN SOURCE, PARA 4, REF C, WHICH SUGGESTED CHINESE MIGHT BE RESPONSIVE TO HMG APPROACH IF MEANS COULD INDEED BE FOUND TO FINESSE WHAT HE CALLED "AUTOMATICITY" ISSUE.

6. SQUIRES SAID HE WAS RETURNING TO LONDON OCTOBER 11 TO BEGIN BUREAUCRATIC STEPS IN CONSONANCE WITH PROCEDURES PROJECTED IN PARA 2 ABOVE. MOST OF THE

URGENCY SEEMED TO BE ON THE COMMUNIST SIDE, HE SAID,
BUT HMG WAS NOT ANXIOUS TO HURRY SINCE THE PROCESS
OF PROMOTING A POSITIVE ATTITUDE AMONG ALL THE
SIGNATORIES WOULD BE A DELICATE AND PERHAPS LONG-TERM
ENDEAVOR.
WHITEHOUSE

SECRET

NNN

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